

Traffic and Parking Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 9, 2014
Rockport Police Station, Community Room

In Attendance: Tom McCarthy, Joe Parisi, Linda Sanders

Meeting Opened: 1:35 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes of the August 26, 2014 Meeting: Parisi moved to accept the minutes; McCarthy seconded; the Committee voted to accept the minutes of the August 26, 2014 meeting unanimously.

Quarry Ridge Lane and Bay Ridge Lane – Stop Sign: John Shea of Coastal Services Network and Eugene Skrabut asked the Committee to consider recommending to the Board of Selectmen the installation of a stop sign at the intersection of Quarry Ridge Lane and Bay Ridge Lane and to also delineate the twenty (20) foot area for no parking near the intersection. Parking for the condo units is clearly marked. Parisi will schedule a site visit to this area.

Seagull Street – Parking: McCarthy and Parisi have conducted numerous site visits in this area to observe the parking; temporary cones are being used to mark “No Parking Areas” and the traffic pattern is observed. This experiment is in progress. Michael Rostkowski, 14 Seagull Street, reported that the testing of different “No Parking” areas is going well; he has had positive interaction with the students parking in the area and has reviewed the plans with Parisi. He supports enforcing “No Parking” in the intersections and on one side of the street. Phil Conrad and Rob Liebow from the School attended the meeting and both have been actively involved in resolving the parking issues with the neighbors and working with the high school students to understand the current parking problems. Support from the students has been fabulous; no speeding or running across Jerdens Lane has been observed. The school policy is that the north side lot is shared between students and faculty; currently there is not sufficient parking for all seniors. Teachers may choose street parking and their space is reassigned to a student on the waiting list. The elementary lot is assigned too. Several options for increasing parking in this area were mentioned and Parisi will review this further. The sale of the adjoining property on Jerdens Lane was discussed as a possible option to increase parking. Currently there are no plans to put a sidewalk on Seagull Street. The issue of which side of the street should be designated “No Parking” is not resolved and the trials will continue; hopefully this will not become a neighbor vs. neighbor issue. Sanders thanked Mr. Rostkowski for his involvement in this project; this item will remain on the agenda and the Committee will decide if a recommendation for designating a “No Parking” zone on one side of the street is needed.

Squam Road and Granite Street – Bus Stop Parking: The Committee received a letter from Sarah Holmes, Squam Road, requesting the elementary bus stop location be reviewed. Many years ago the bus stop was between Squam Road and Summit Avenue; that location is no longer possible because of lack of a crosswalk on Granite Street between Squam Road and Summit Avenue. Cars parking at the base of Squam Road are a safety issue and McCarthy plans to increase the police presence in the area during the morning and afternoon elementary bus stop time.

Signage on Private Roads – Cathedral Avenue and Highview Road: McCarthy clarified that the Police Department does not have enforcement authority for private signage. However, the winter parking ban is enforced for safety purposes on private roads. Currently, both Cathedral Avenue and Highview Road residents have private signage in place.

Atlantic Avenue – Parking: The Committee received an email from Duncan Reid, 28 Atlantic Avenue, requesting the Committee consider changing the parking across from the Headlands to “Resident Only” parking; the Committee acknowledge the email and reiterated the importance of the Headlands as a major tourist attracting for Rockport.

Downtown Master Plan: The Committee acknowledged receiving the letter from the Planning Board.

Adjournment: Parisi moved and McCarthy seconded to adjourn the meeting at 2:40 p.m.